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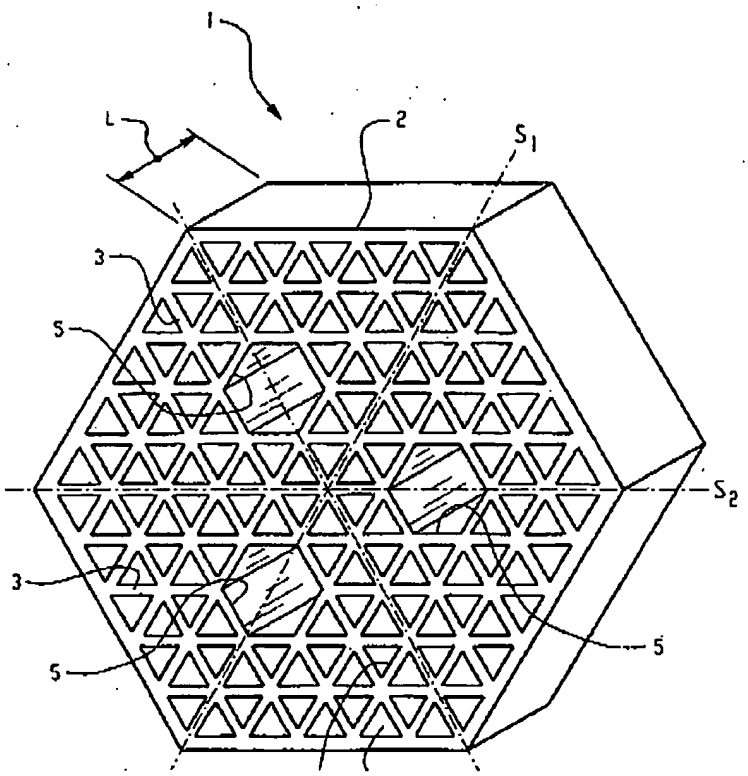
(54) Title: CERAMIC PACKING ELEMENT WITH ENLARGED FLUID FLOW PASSAGES



(57) Abstract: A ceramic packing element (1) has a polygonal structure (2) with a plane of symmetry in a direction defining a length (L) of the element and a greatest dimension (D) perpendicular to the length defining a diameter of the element. The element has a plurality of internal septa (3) defining a plurality of identical first passages (4) through the element each of which has a first cross-sectional area and at plurality of second passages (5) of a larger cross-sectional area and at plurality of second passages (5) of a larger cross section area than that of one of the first passages. At least one of the second passages has a cross sectional area which is at least four times that of one of the first passages.

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